

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 SAM-01 OIC-04 FEA-02 INT-08 SCI-06 L-03

H-03 AEC-11 DRC-01 SS-20 NSC-10 NEA-11 AF-10 AGR-20

TAR-02 EA-11 ARA-16 /266 W  
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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6413

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 4-5 EC COUNCIL MEETING (FOREIGN MINISTERS) -  
ROUND-UP

REF: EC BRUSSELS 738

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (FOREIGN

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MINISTERS) OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MET FEBRUARY 4-5,

AND, ONE THE MAIN POINT OF ITS AGENDA, SUCCEEDED IN AGREEING ON A MANDATE FOR THE COMMUNITY'S POSITION AT THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE (EC BRUSSELS 749 AND 750). IN ADDITION TO THE DECISIONS TAKEN ON FEBRUARY 4 (SEE REFTEL FOR THE REPORT ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE MEETING), THE COUNCIL ALSO ADOPTED A SERIES OF MEASURES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE COUNCIL'S DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES, AND INSTRUCTED THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO CONTINUE EXAMINATION OF THE QUESTION OF STABILIZATION OF EXPORT EARNINGS FOR THE ASSOCIATED AND ASSOCIABLE COUNTRIES. THE COUNCIL MADE SOME PROGRESS IN ITS DISCUSSIONS OF GLOBAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES BUT TOOK NO DECISIONS, AND POSTPONED A DEFINITIVE DECISION ON THE IMPORT OF TAPE-RECORDERS INTO ITALY UNTIL MARCH 5. THE COUNCIL WILL INVITE GRENADA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE EC AND THE ASSOCIATED AND ASSOCIABLE COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES OF THE COUNCIL. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECLARATION OF THE 1972 PARIS SUMMIT, AND SUPPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS TAKEN JULY 23, 1973 (EC BRUSSELS 4249), THE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED ON CERTAIN MEASURES TO IMPROVE ITS DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES. SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT MEASURES IN THIS RESPECT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: THE MINISTER WHO PRINCIPALLY EXERCISES THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (FRG FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL AT THIS TIME) SHOULD TAKE AS BROAD A VIEW AS POSSIBLE OF HIS CO-ORDINATING ROLE WITH RESPECT TO ALL COUNCIL MEETINGS (GENERAL AND SPECIALIZED), AND FOR THIS PURPOSE HE SHOULD ALSO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION. THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL WILL SUBMIT, AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS PRESIDENCY, A PROGRAM OF WORK OVER THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD OF HIS INCUMBENCY, TOGETHER WITH A TIMETABLE FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION. TO SPEED UP THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, MEMBER STATES WILL GIVE THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE COUNCIL, FOR MEETINGS AT ALL LEVELS, ADEQUATE INSTRUCTIONS PERMITTING THEM TO REACH DECISIONS WITHIN REASONABLE PERIODS OF TIME. THE COUNCIL ALSO AGREED THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE ITS STUDY OF OTHER MEASURES TO IMPROVE ITS PROCEDURES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DISCUSSION OF THE STATE OF THE COMMUNITY (REFTEL) AT ONE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE NEXT COUNCIL SESSIONS.

3. STABILIZATION OF EXPORT EARNINGS. THE COUNCIL EXAMINED A PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN REGARDING THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER III OF PROTOCOL 22 OF THE TREATY OF ACCESSION (IN WHICH THE COMMUNITY DECLARES ITS FIRM PURPOSE TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF THE ASSOCIATED AND ASSOCIABLE COUNTRIES WHOSE ECONOMIES ARE

HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON THE EXPORT OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS, PARTICULARLY SUGAR). THE COUNCIL INSTRUCTED THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO CONTINUE ITS EXAMINATION OF THE QUESTION.

4. MEDITERRANEAN. THE COUNCIL MADE SOME PROGRESS IN ITS EXAMINATION OF THE MAIN PROBLEMS STILL OUTSTANDING IN DRAWING UP GLOBAL AGREEMENTS WITH SPAIN, ISRAEL, MALTA, AND THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES. (THE DETAILS OF THE DISCUSSION ON THE QUESTION OF RECIPROCITY ARE BEING REPORTED BY SEPTTEL.) TREATMENT OF ALGERIAN WINE REMAINS THE MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK FOR THE ITALIANS AND FRENCH. THE DUTCH RAISED QUESTIONS WITH REGARDS TO ALGERIA AND THE ENERGY SITUATION. DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE IN THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES.

5. ITALIAN TAPE-RECORDERS. THE ITALIAN QUOTA ON THE IMPORT OF TAPE-RECORDERS AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMUNITY NINE MONTHS AGO, AND REPORTED TO GATT IN AN ARTICLE XIX MEASURE, WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE EXPIRED ON JANUARY 1, 1974. THE ITALIANS WERE UNWILLING TO ACCEPT THE VOLUNTARY EXPORT RESTRAINTS OFFERED BY JAPAN LATE LAST YEAR TO HOLD SHIPMENTS TO 330,000 UNITS PER YEAR (EC BRUSSELS 7361), AND CONTINUED THE QUOTA INTO 1974 AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE. THEY HAD ASKED THE COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE A 1974 IMPORT QUOTA REPORTEDLY OF ABOUT 300,000 UNITS (I.E. THE SAME RATE AS LAST YEAR). THE COMMISSION HAD PROPOSED THAT THE COUNCIL REJECT THE ITALIAN QUOTA REQUEST ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE JAPANESE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE PROBLEM. (HANNAY, SOAMES' CHEF DE CABINET, TOLD AMBASSADOR GREENWALD THAT THE COMMISSION VIEWS THIS AS A MAJOR COMMERCIAL POLICY ISSUE INDICATING A SHIFT TOWARD EC USE OF VOLUNTARY EXPORT RESTRAINTS AND LESS RELIANCE ON GATT ARTICLE XIX.) THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM AND AGREED TO EXTEND PROVISIONALLY THE TERM OF VALIDITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE IMPORT QUOTAS UNTIL THE COUNCIL REACHES A DEFINITIVE DECISION WHICH AT THE LATEST SHOULD BE AT THE COUNCIL SESSION ON MARCH 4-5.

6. GRENADA. IN A POINT A ITEM DECISION (THAT IS, WITH NO DISCUSSION), THE COUNCIL ALSO INVITED GRENADA, WHICH BECOMES INDEPENDENT FEBRUARY 7, TO T  
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## Message Attributes

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